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Planning

AI Tutoring Tools for Education

Department for Education

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-013464

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-065408

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Scope

Description

Purpose of the Engagement

The Department is engaging with the market to gather insight that will help shape thinking around the development of safe, curriculum-aligned AI tutoring tools. This work follows the government's commitment to explore how AI-powered tutoring tools, co-designed with teachers and aligned to the National Curriculum could support disadvantaged pupils and complement high-quality teaching.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,500,000 excluding VAT
- £1,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 15 June 2026 to 14 May 2028
- Possible extension to 14 May 2029
- 2 years, 11 months

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72222300 - Information technology services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

25 February 2026

Engagement process description

Aims of the Pre?Market Engagement

1. Present the Policy Context and Emerging Vision

We will outline the government's intent to support the development of safe, trusted AI tutoring tools that enhance learning while maintaining strong safeguards and preserving the central role of teachers.

2. Gather Insight from the Market

The Department is seeking active feedback to improve its understanding of:

a. Key Development Challenges

Obstacles suppliers face in creating safe, effective, curriculum?aligned tools, particularly those designed to support disadvantaged pupils.

b. Opportunities for Collaboration

-How government and industry can work together on shared challenges, including:

-Safety and safeguarding expectations

-Evidence generation and evaluation

-Data integration and interoperability with school systems

-Approaches to scaling solutions nationally

These areas relate to the government's ambition for tools to be co?developed with teachers, robustly tested, and aligned with the National Curriculum ahead of any potential wider use.

3. Inform Future Commercial Thinking

Feedback from suppliers, including responses to a forthcoming Request for Information, will help the Department consider potential future commercial options. This may include defining scope, delivery models, and possible commercial approaches that would support the safe and equitable adoption of AI tutoring tools.

The pre-market engagement will be carried out via the Microsoft Teams on 18/02/2026 between 14:00 and 15:55 (full time may not be needed, but please be there from the start).

Interested suppliers should register their interest and by completing the following Microsoft Form. Please submit the form by 17/02/2026 at 17:00 to guarantee an invite to the event:

<https://forms.office.com/e/3qeamCCH59>

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

11 March 2026

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

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Organisation type: Public authority - central government